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Skodovy Zavody

1. The plant is located in Pilsen west of Prague and employs about 40 thousand workers. The plant produces heavy steel construction products such as complete cement mills, complete sugar mills, refrigerating plants, mining hoists for deep underground mining, transportation equipment for the mining industry and for factories, automobiles, light and heavy Skoda trucks, electrical motors (all sizes), transformers and almost all electrical equipment. Skoda is the largest producer of electrical machinery in Czechoslovakia. Skoda factories receive rolled steel and steel plates from Vitkovic steel mill in Ostrava.

There is a large steel and iron foundry in Pilsen. In addition, Skoda produces military equipment. For World War II it produced the Tiger tanks, Diesel motors for German submarines and parts for ships and motors for the air force. Power shovels were produced in many sizes and were electric, Diesel or steam driven. Skoda factories delivered in the years 1947 and 1948 more than 100 steam power shovels to the USSR with the capacity of 2.5 cubic meters (approximately three cubic yards) and some with a capacity of seven cubic meters. The seven cubic meter shovels were all electrically driven. All replacement parts for these shovels were made in Skoda factories. Skoda's main factories are around Pilsen. A new factory for shovels and army equipment with six feet thick reinforced concrete roof was built before World War II in Czechoslovakia.

In 1941 and 1942 the Germans rebuilt the existing steam locomotive factory in Pilsen and in the last year of World War II this factory delivered daily three to four large steam locomotives for German railroads. In 1949 the Skoda and Ceskomoravská Kolben-Dáněk in Prague received an order from the USSR for one thousand steam locomotives. Skoda delivered 700 and Ceskomoravská delivered 300 locomotives.

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Before World War II Skoda was 50% owned by Czechoslovak private capital and by government capital; the balance was owned mostly by French interests. This company has always had an excellent export department. It was very well organized and capable of outdoing the German competition. After World War II the Czechs continued this export organization and Skoda products now bring many millions of foreign dollars to the Communist regime. Skoda is delivering to the USSR machinery and arms in large quantities and of excellent quality. Skoda with its excellent engineering staff is able to build products for the USSR steel industry. Skoda's delivery to the USSR in 1954 will provide the equipment that the USSR would receive from the US and the West if trade were allowed.

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Ceskomoravska Kolben Danek (CKD) - Prague

2. This company is also state owned and is of similar construction to Skoda. It is only one half the size of Skoda. The factories are in Prague and the surrounding vicinity. CKD produces the same kind of machinery and equipment as Skoda with the exception of arms. It has never produced many arms. It builds the machinery for complete cement, sugar, and similar mills, mining equipment, and complete chemical units for different chemical processes. In Prague, CKD manufactures the railroad locomotives and smaller locomotives - steam or electric - for the mining industry. Also, in the vicinity of Prague there is a modern equipped factory for the manufacture of airplane motors. This factory was bombed near the end of World War II. Only the production line was working at the end of World War II. In the vicinity of Prague the Germans built their first jet airplane motors which were tested at this factory.

CKD has factories for the manufacture of electrical equipment. The capacity is not as large as Skoda's but all the products are heavily built. The mining department at CKD is more developed than at Skoda. It delivers complete mining hoists for deep underground mining including the shaft equipment, loaders, conveyors, compressors, pumps, etc. Diesel motors for oil drilling are also built.

In 1948, in the engineering department of CKD in Prague, complete drawings for two sizes of coal underground loaders which were a perfect copy of Joy Manufacturing Company's loaders manufactured in the US. A Joy loader, purchased in 1948 from the US, was copied and production was scheduled for 1949. The program called for delivery to Czechoslovak, Polish, and Soviet coal mines.

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Vitkovice Steel Mills - Ostrava

3. The Vitkovice steel mills are the largest in Czechoslovakia. The company has 35 to 40 thousand employees. In 1949 it began producing blast (high) furnaces. Ostrava supplied the coal for coke and iron ore was imported from Sweden and some from Bosnia. After Swedish deliveries became shorter near the end of 1949 the USSR began to deliver iron ore. The result of this change was a poorer quality of steel.

The main product of the Vitkovice steel mills is construction steel. All steel ingots are rolled here into profiles and pipes. In Ostrava the large sizes of boilers for steam power plants are built, and there is a factory which manufactures industrial cranes of all sizes and capacities. Part of the steel is used in a machine factory where compressors, mining hoists, cages, conveyors, equipment for complete coal briquetting, pneumatic tools for mines and industry, and affiliated equipment are produced. Washing machines for coal washing plants are also produced. Another important item of this factory is seamless casings and drill pipes for the oil drilling industry. After World War II this firm started to construct complete oil

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well drills with pumps and towers. After World War II, the Czechoslovak Government purchased from the US a complete new steel mill (purchased before the Communists came into power). [redacted] all the concrete foundations for this new steel mill. An engineer, (fnu) Styblo, from Ostrava came to the US to study the steel industry. After the Communists took control of the government in Prague the site was ready for delivery; however, the US did not permit the export of the new steel mill. In 1952 the Czechoslovak Government contacted (fnu) Vukmanovic, Yugoslav Minister of Mines in Washington, DC, and offered to sell this mill to Yugoslavia. The offer was declined because the mill is too large and because of the lack of dollars.

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Poldina Steel Mill - Kladno (Poldi)

4. This is the only specialized producer of alloy steel in Czechoslovakia. The factory is situated in Kladno approximately 30 miles west of Prague. Poldi is an old steel producer and before World War II exported large quantities of high quality tool steel.

There are large coal mines in Kladno and all coke is made there. The iron ore for the steel mill is imported. Poldi was one of the main steel producers in old Austria-Hungary and the ore at that time was mined in Bosnia. Between World War I and World War II all ore was imported from Sweden. The USSR now [1954] supplies most of the ore. The main product manufactured by Poldi today is alloy steel in different qualities of rods. Poldi also manufactures different steel tools such as forged rolls for cold rolling of steel sheets, knives used in industry, boring crowns for oil drilling, and couplings for drill pipes. Couplings are shipped in large quantities to Rumania, Austria, and the USSR.

Kablo (cable factory)

5. This is Czechoslovakia's only cable producer. It has factories in Kladno, Bratislava, and Chomutov. The factories are well equipped and produce large quantities of cables. The factories' main problem is the availability of metals and insulation material. Metals are imported and for insulation paper is usually used because cotton is limited. Paper production is well developed in Czechoslovakia. For paper insulated cables there is also a lack of oil.

Raukska a hutni spolecnost (Mining & Smelting Co)

6. The main products of this company are different carbon steels for construction of profiles, channels, angles, wires and screens. There are factories located at Kladno, Karluv Dvur and Trencin. The wire factories in Trencin and Kladno are well equipped. Blast furnaces are located at all three mills. An advantage of the factory in Karluv Dvur is the use of 35% iron ore from the iron ore mine in the vicinity of the factory. Karluv Dvur produces mostly cast iron pipes and cast roles for rolling mills.

Spojené ocelárny Chomutov (United Steel mills - Chomutov)

7. Before World War II the old Mannesmann steel factory produced seamless pipes. Today [1954] seamless pipes to eight inches in diameter are produced and large quantities of casings and drill pipes are supplied to Rumania, Austria, Poland and the USSR. Also, a rolling mill for producing profiles, channels, angles, I-beams and steel plates is in operation at Chomutov.

Závody na drátěná lana, Praha, Štěpánská 33 (Factories for wire ropes)

8. This is the only producer of steel wire ropes in Czechoslovakia. The factories are located in Kladno, Bratislava, Příbram, and Chomutov. The company has had trouble with its steel wire ropes since the change from Swedish iron ore to iron ore received from the USSR.

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